EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with John Freeman on 6/17/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Replace the paragraph added prior to line 1 in Applicant's Amendment filed on

December 6, 2004 with the following paragraph:

This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C § 119(e) to the filing date of U.S.

Provisional Application 60/063,454, May 23, 1997, of the same title.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to MICHAEL G. MENDOZA whose telephone number is

(571)272-4698. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00

p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Todd Manahan can be reached on (571) 272-4713. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. G. M./
Examiner, Art Unit 3734

/Todd E Manahan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3731